

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 6-10 are pending in the application, claims 3-5 and 11-20 being canceled herein. Claims 1, 6, and 8 are the only independent claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,009,583 to Buckle.

Claims 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,009,583 to Buckle in view of European Patent Application Publication No. 1136351 A2 (Garofalo).

Claims 3, 4 11-14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckle in view of Garofalo and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,257 to Garofalo et al.

Claims 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckle in view of Garofalo et al.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5-10 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3, 4, and 5. Amended claim 1 is equivalent to claim 5 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 3 and 4). Pursuant to the Examiner's remarks, amended claim 1 is allowable. Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 3, and 4. Amended claim 6 has accordingly been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 3 and 4). Pursuant to the Examiner's remarks, amended claim 6 is allowable.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 1, 3, and 4. Amended claim 8 has accordingly been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (claims 3 and 4). Pursuant to the Examiner's remarks, amended claim 8 is allowable.

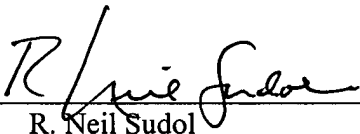
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 6, and 8, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

COLEMAN SUDOL SAPONE, P.C.

By: 
R. Neil Sudol
Reg. No. 31,669

714 Colorado Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605-1601
(203) 366-3560

Dated: 20 December 2007